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Environment and sustainable development: promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. José Alberto **Briz Gutiérrez** (Guatemala)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 94 (see A/58/484, para. 2). Action on sub-item (a) was taken at the 34th and 37th meetings, on 12 November and 11 December 2003. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/58/SR.34 and 37).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/58/L.26 and A/C.2/58/L.59

2. At the 34th meeting, on 12 November, the representative of Morocco, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005" (A/C.2/58/L.26). Subsequently, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Fiji, Italy (on behalf of the Member States of the United Nations that are members of the European Union and the acceding countries, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia), Mexico, Monaco, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Romania, Turkey, Uganda and Ukraine joined in sponsoring the draft resolution. The draft resolution read as follows:

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in nine parts, under the symbol A/58/484 and Add.1-8.

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"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 53/7 of 16 October 1998, 54/215 of 22 December 1999, 55/205 of 20 December 2000 and 56/200 of 21 December 2001 on the World Solar Programme 1996-2005,

"*Recalling also* the provisions contained in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation) concerning energy for sustainable development, including the promotion of renewable energy,

"*Welcoming* initiatives that aim to improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services for sustainable development to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,

"*Emphasizing* that the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 is aimed at encompassing all forms of new and renewable energy, including solar, thermal, photovoltaic, biomass, wind, hydro, tidal, ocean and geothermal forms,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. *Reaffirms* that the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation is the framework for energy for sustainable development and calls for its full implementation;

"3. *Notes* the role that the World Solar Commission continues to play in the mobilization of international support and assistance for the implementation of many of the national high-priority projects on renewable sources of energy included in the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, many of which are being executed with national funding;

"4. *Notes also* that although significant financial support has been provided by some developed countries that are Members of the United Nations and some intergovernmental organizations, within and outside the United Nations system, in the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, more action still needs to be taken in this regard;

"5. *Encourages* all countries to promote sustainable patterns of energy consumption and production, with the developed countries taking the lead and with all countries benefiting from the process, taking into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and, in this regard, invites the international community to support the efforts of developing countries through the provision of financial resources for capacity-building and transfer of technology;

"6. *Recognizes* that rural energy services, including their financing, should be designed to maximize local ownership, as appropriate;

"7. *Encourages* the United Nations system to continue to raise awareness of the importance of energy for sustainable development, including the need for the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy and the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, particularly in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication;

"8. *Emphasizes* the need to intensify research and development in support of energy for sustainable development, which will require increased commitment on the part of all stakeholders, including Governments and the private sector, to deploy financial and human resources for accelerating research efforts;

"9. *Stresses* that the wider use of available renewable sources of energy requires technology transfer and diffusion on a global scale, including through North-South and South-South cooperation;

"10. *Calls upon* Governments, as well as relevant regional and international organizations and other relevant stakeholders, to combine, as appropriate, the increased use of renewable energy resources, more efficient use of energy, greater reliance on advanced energy technologies, including advanced and cleaner fossil fuel technologies, and the sustainable use of traditional energy resources, which could meet the growing need for energy services in the longer term to achieve sustainable development;

"11. *Invites* the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to make effective the implementation of the Global Renewable Energy Education and Training Programme 1996-2005 in the various regions;

"12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

"13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session, under the item entitled 'Environment and sustainable development', the sub-item entitled 'Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005'."

3. At the 37th meeting, on 11 December, the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Irena Zubčević (Croatia), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005" (A/C.2/58/L.59), which she submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.26.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.59 (see para. 7).

5. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of the Russian Federation (see A/C.2/58/SR.37).

6. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.59, draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.26 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/7 of 16 October 1998, 54/215 of 22 December 1999, 55/205 of 20 December 2000 and 56/200 of 21 December 2001 on the World Solar Programme 1996-2005,

Recalling also the recommendations and conclusions contained in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation)[1] concerning energy for sustainable development,

Welcoming initiatives that aim to improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services for sustainable development in order to contribute to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[2]

Emphasizing that the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 is aimed at encompassing all forms of new and renewable energy, including solar, thermal, photovoltaic, biomass, wind, hydro, tidal, ocean and geothermal forms,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[3]

2. *Reaffirms* that the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation[1] is the intergovernmental framework for energy for sustainable development agreed to at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and calls for its full implementation;

3. *Notes* the role that the World Solar Commission continues to play in the mobilization of international support and assistance for the implementation of many of the national high-priority projects on renewable sources of energy included in the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, many of which are being executed with national funding;

4. *Notes also* that although significant financial support has been provided by some developed countries that are Members of the United Nations and by some intergovernmental organizations, both within and outside the United Nations system, in the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, more action still needs to be taken in this regard;

5. *Recognizes* that rural energy services, including their financing, should be designed to maximize local ownership, as appropriate;

6. *Encourages* the United Nations system to continue to raise awareness of the importance of energy for sustainable development, including the need for the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy and the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, particularly in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication;

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[1] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[2] See resolution 55/2.

[3] A/58/164.

7. *Emphasizes* the need to intensify research and development in support of energy for sustainable development, which will require increased commitment on the part of all stakeholders, including Governments and the private sector, to deploy financial and human resources for accelerating research efforts;

8. *Stresses* that the wider use of available renewable sources of energy requires technology transfer and diffusion on a global scale, including through North-South and South-South cooperation;

9. *Calls upon* Governments, as well as relevant regional and international organizations and other relevant stakeholders, to combine, as appropriate, the increased use of renewable energy resources, more efficient use of energy, greater reliance on advanced energy technologies, including advanced and cleaner fossil fuel technologies, and the sustainable use of traditional energy resources, which could meet the growing need for energy services in the longer term to achieve sustainable development;

10. *Encourages* national and regional initiatives on renewable energies to promote access to energy, including renewable energy, for the poorest and to improve energy efficiency and conservation by resorting to a mix of available technologies, taking into full account the provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation on energy for sustainable development;

11. *Welcomes* the initiative of the Government of Germany in hosting the International Conference on Renewable Energies in June 2004;

12. *Invites* the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to continue to make effective the implementation of the Global Renewable Energy Education and Training Programme 1996-2005 in the various regions;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005".